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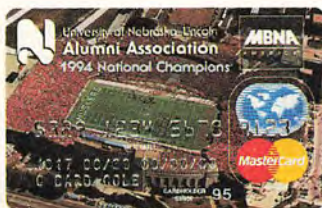
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C O N T E N T S

September 9, 1995 • Volume 15, No. 8

F E A T U R E S

A Head For D. 12

Unlike Sampson, Phil Ellis didn't lose his ability when he lost his locks.

After The Game. 28

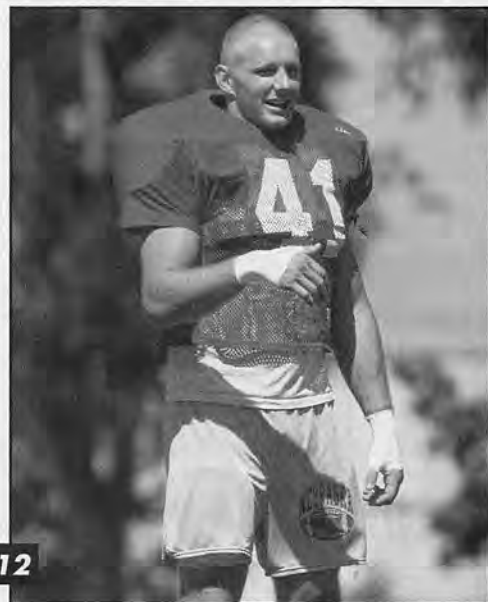
Former Nebraska fullback Tom Rathman adjusts to life off the field following successful stints on both the collegiate and professional level.

Hungry. 32

Apple pie or basketball. It doesn't matter. Transfer Bernard Garner is ready to consume both dessert and foes.

Mister Touchdown 36

One of Nebraska's first pure offensive stars, Bobby Reynolds made shattering scoring and rushing records seem easy.



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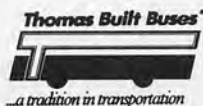
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When was the last time Nebraska finished the football season unranked by The Associated Press. I know that they haven't played well in the bowls, but I can't remember when the Huskers would have been so bad as to not be ranked.

Steve Campbell
Sacramento, Calif.

Steve: You shouldn't be thinking about losing seasons with the team beginning what could be another national title season. But to answer your question, the last time Nebraska finished the football season unranked by The Associated Press was 1968. That year, Nebraska lost four games: Kansas (13-23), Missouri (14-16), Kansas State (0-12) and Oklahoma (0-47). Nebraska didn't even make it to a bowl after tying for fourth in the conference. — Editor

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"I THINK THE MEDIA IS ON DRUGS."

I think the media is on drugs (except for you guys). Surely you abstain. How do they justify putting the Huskers in such horrible position in their individual polls? I was blown away when I saw your breakdown in the last issue (August 1995). What does Texas A&M and Florida State have that makes them better teams?

It seems like the media decides during the summer who their darling teams are and then everything else is biased from then on. Remember how they jumped on Bobby Bowden's wagon in 1993 and our own Dr. Tom last year? Watch out, but this year it seems like the voting body is firmly in R.C. Slocum and Texas A&M's corner.

The joke will be on them when we march into the Bob Devaney

Center with yet another trophy in our arms.

Disgusted
Omaha, Neb.

My first reaction was, "How can you leave out Roger Craig?" But then my better senses kicked in and I realized that the 10 backs you picked for your "Best Running Backs In The Modern Era" were right on the money. You guys made a lot of sense with the picks.

This is a story I've long looked for in the magazine. I think you guys did a good job. It'll be interesting to relive the stories of those great backs in the issues this year.

Paul Spence
Allen, Texas

Forget the Top 10 running backs. How about Top 10 quarterbacks of all time? My vote for No. 1 is Tommie Frazier — the 1995 Heisman Trophy winner.

Steve Faulkner
Phoenix, Ariz.

where is Knuckles?



Bob Berry

What happened to I-back Brian Knuckles? I remember when he was recruited in 1994. The buzz was that he was as good as Mike Rozier. Now I understand he's not even at Nebraska. What gives?

Terry Mallozi
St. Louis, Mo.

While Knuckles (30) proved to be a quality back in the spring, making comparisons to Rozier would be crazy. You may be making those comparisons because Knuckles broke Rozier's rushing record while at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College. Knuckles had a solid spring, but transferred in June. Reasons have not been disclosed, but it appears he was not happy having to play second fiddle to Lawrence Phillips. — Editor

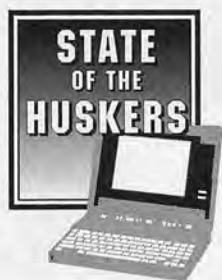
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Herbie Husked

Longtime mascot won't be put in mothballs, but Nebraska is looking for a new more marketable image

By MIKE BABCOCK

First, a little history. In 1890, its first season of competition, the Nebraska football team was referred to as the Old Gold Knights. You could look it up, as baseball's Casey Stengel once said. Or maybe it was Yogi Berra who said that. No matter. The fact remains.

Nebraska was called Old Gold Knights, apparently because gold figured into the school colors, which didn't officially become scarlet and cream until 1900 or thereabouts.

Nebraska's football team also was called the Bugeaters, the Treeplanters and the Nebraskans (among other names) prior to 1900. It was then that Charles "Cy" Sherman, a young newspaperman employed by the Nebraska State Journal at the time, decided to christen the team Cornhuskers.

Sherman's nickname stuck. It was so popular, in fact, that in 1907, the university student yearbook's name was changed from Sombrero to The Cornhusker. And nearly 40 years after that, Nebraska officially became "the Cornhusker state," by legislation passed by the Unicameral.

Sherman, affectionately known as "the father of the Cornhuskers," was made a member of the Nebraska lettermen's club in 1933, an honor reserved almost exclusively for varsity athletes. He was given a gold football and a block "N."

Nebraska has been the Cornhuskers for nearly a century now, and despite what you might have heard or read, the university athletic teams still answer to that.

"We are not dropping 'Corn' from the nickname," sports information director Chris Anderson said, emphasizing the "not."

The controversy surrounding Nebraska's nickname was a result of

a newspaper report following the national championship victory against Miami in the Orange Bowl game that Huskers, a popular, shortened version of the nickname (used by this publication) was more marketable, nationally, than Cornhuskers. In addition, the report said, recruits from outside the state were more responsive to Huskers.

The value of that information should be obvious. The economics of major college athlet-

ics, including the cost of achieving gender equity, are such that national marketing is important, if not necessary. And the dynamics of recruiting, to which athletic success is tied, require certain concessions.

If letters to prospective recruits need to be written on "Huskers" stationery, so be it. If officially licensed Nebraska apparel sells better with "Huskers" emblazoned on it, where's the harm?

Although Nebraska's nickname remains the same, its mascot does not. Herbie Husker was semi-retired in July, by order of Athletic Director Bill Byrne.

Herbie was not effective in marketing the program, and based on athletic department research, he wasn't particularly popular among Cornhusker/Husker fans.



HERBIE HUSKER, '95

Herbie Husker changed with the times, but it seems that his, as well as 'Lil Red's, times may be up as official mascots for Nebraska.

HERBIE HUSKER, '85

He wasn't, that is, until the official announcement regarding his status. Then there was a scramble to buy Herbie merchandise before it became scarce.

Herbie's association with Nebraska football will continue this season. He'll be "available on the perimeter of the stadium for the

deflate 'Lil Red. And Herbie won't be put in mothballs. But a committee is studying the matter in an attempt to come up with an image that is both marketable and reflective of Nebraska's rich athletic tradition.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported recently that Nebraska has earned more than \$2 million in royalties

Dame and Florida State earn more, it said.

If Huskers does the trick, why complain? A Cornhusker by any other name, etc., etc., etc., to combine and corrupt quotes from the King of Siam in "The King and I" and Shakespeare's star-crossed lover, Juliet. Or was it Romeo? Oh well,

HE IS A MASCOT, "NOT AN OFFICIAL TEAM LOGO."

kids, who are the ones who like him," Anderson said. However, "he will not represent the football team on the field."

Herbie Husker succeeded the less popular Harry Husker, who was sacked in the early 1980s. Herbie will continue to be a licensed trademark. He is a mascot, "not an official team logo," said Anderson. The same is true of 'Lil Red, the inflated, Pillsbury Doughboy-looking figure that has been bouncing around Memorial Stadium and the Bob Devaney Sports Center of late.

There are no immediate plans to

from licensing fees in the aftermath of winning college football's national championship. Nebraska ranks fourth among colleges in athletic licensing revenue, according to the newspaper. Only Michigan, Notre

you get the idea. It's much ado about nothing.

Including black among the school colors, now that's a different matter. Or maybe not. Further study is needed before offering an opinion. ■



'Lil Red '95

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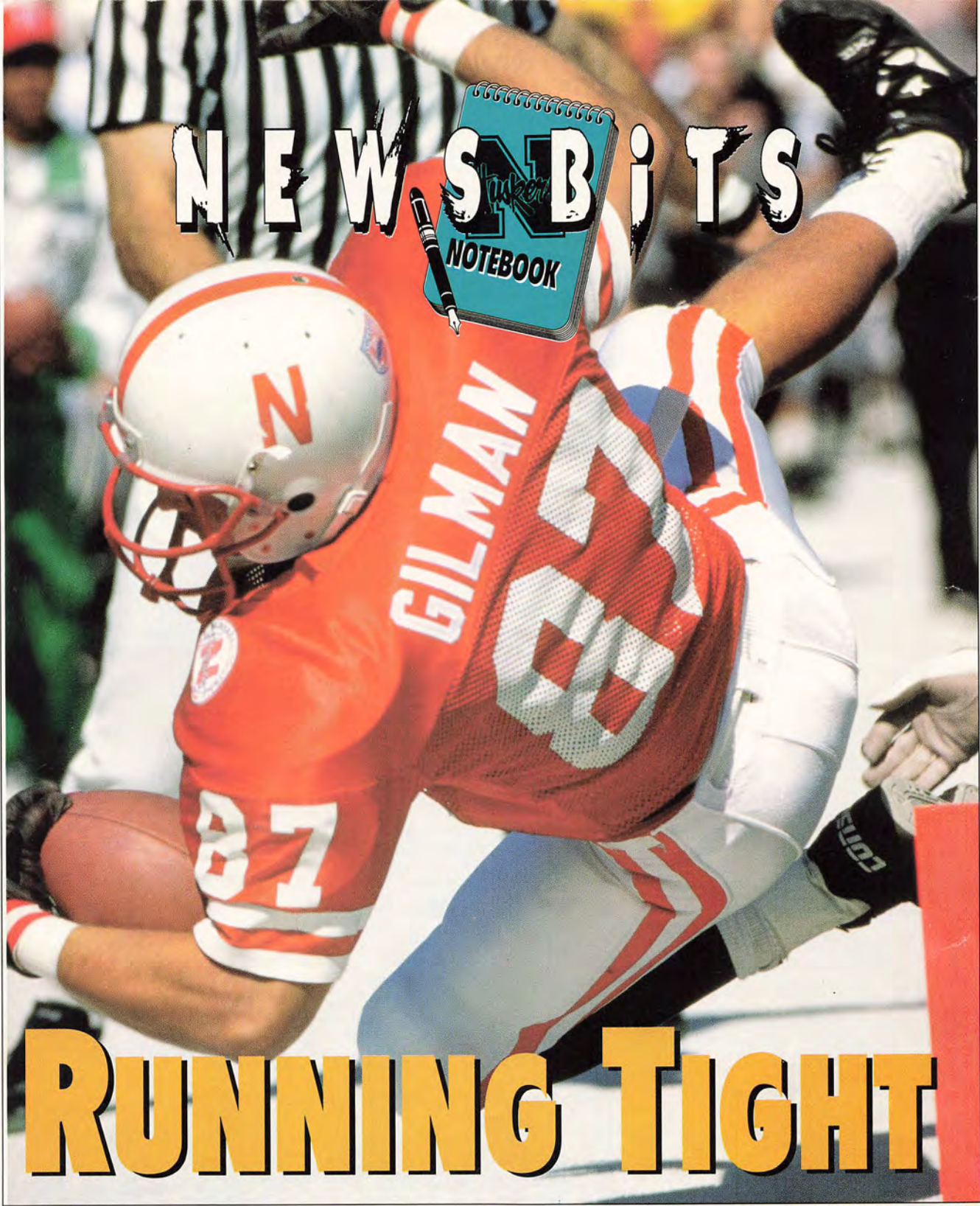
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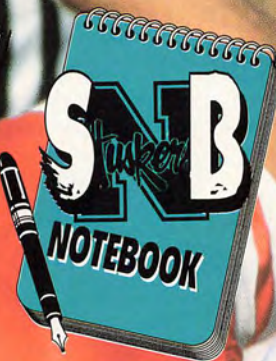
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NEWSBITS



RUNNING TIGHT

Bob Berry

Some of the toughest positions to play are offensive line and receiver. On the offensive line, you have to know when, whom and how to block. Receivers need to know what route, how deep and when to block or run a guy off.

How tough would it be if you had to mentally combine both?

At Nebraska, that morphing process is taking place.

After losing two of three top tight ends to graduation, a big question looms: Who will step up and fill the vacant spots? Well, have no fear because this year the Huskers have reloaded with a young group of tight ends.

Maybe, for the first time in Husker football history, the offense will line up with more than two running backs at the same time. But don't be alarmed. Nebraska isn't

scrapping its offensive scheme. It's just moving players into the position.

A high school quarterback, senior Mark Gilman (6-foot-3, 245) is a three-year letterman and the only tight end coming back with game experience. Gilman is a solid blocker and an excellent receiver.

"What I really tried to do this summer was to work on my agility and speed coming off the ball," the

Kalispell, Mont., native said. "I realized that I was a senior starter coming back and this summer would be really important to the group of tight ends."

"This would have to be a summer of not only hard work, but confidence building in all of us."

Gilman's strength and hard-working attitude were evident last spring as he won the 1995 Husker Lifter of the Year award.

"It was a great honor for me to win it because it reflects the respect of my teammates," said Gilman, who was chosen for the award by his teammates.

A valuable factor in the 1995 Orange Bowl victory over Miami, Gilman scored the first Husker touchdown on a pass from Brook Berringer. He will also be a key to the Huskers' success this year.

The two players in line to backup Gilman are converted fullbacks.

Tim Carpenter, a 6-2, 230 pounder from Columbus, Neb., was a first-team SuperState running back. After a redshirt year at fullback, Carpenter emerged and was converted to tight end last fall.

"I think by me spending a year at fullback, it really helped me develop blocking habits," he said. "In the beginning the transition was very difficult because I was used to blocking on isolation plays and pass pro, whereas at the tight end position you're more like an offensive lineman and a receiver."

"I have to know all the line calls and make a lot of decisions depending on what the linemen tell me."

Mike Grant, the Huskers' offensive graduate assistant coach, believes Carpenter will play a major role this season.

"Tim has developed into a solid blocker with the potential to also become a great possession receiver," Grant said.

A surprise at the No. 3 position is Vershan Jackson.

Another prep running back, Jackson has bounced around at fullback and outside linebacker before ending up at tight end this fall.

"I basically wanted to do anything I could to contribute," he said.

Jackson was discovered by the coaches while running scout team for the No. 1 defense and playing tight end. He believes that after becoming familiar with the mental part of the tight end game, he can make an early impact in the Huskers' 1995 campaign. ■

— SETH THOMAS



Husker Vision

Andy Bilanzich, the Nebraska football team's freshman punter, wasted little time getting noticed.

His photograph, in color, was on the front page of the *Lincoln Journal Star*. A day or two later, it was in the *Omaha World-Herald*, along with a personality profile.

He hadn't even punted once, and already his face was familiar.

The reason was his glass eye, which has a red iris with a white "N" inside the red. Bilanzich lost his left eye in a childhood accident, and it was replaced with a glass eye. Not the red one, of course. Ordinarily, he wears a glass eye that matches his right.

The red one is for special occasions, such as Cornhusker football games. But Bilanzich was wearing it on media day, presumably to underscore his excitement about being at Nebraska.

"Ever since I was a kid in diapers, I've been a Husker fan," he said. One of the reasons is his uncle, Steve Davies, who played tight end for the Cornhuskers from 1978 to 1980.

Bilanzich has always wanted to follow in his uncle's footsteps.

He could begin doing that immediately, given Nebraska's well-documented need for a punter to replace Darin Erstad, who is employed in the California Angels' minor-league system, after being the first player chosen in the June baseball draft.

Bilanzich averaged 48.5 yards per punt — and 43 yards net — at Judge Memorial Catholic High School in Salt Lake City last season. He certainly has the credentials as a punter.

He also kicked seven field goals of 45 yards or more, to earn first-team all-state recognition.

Bilanzich doesn't mind the attention his custom-made eye attracts. It has earned him the nickname "Husker Vision," an allusion to Nebraska's state-of-the-art, big-screen instant replay boards at Memorial Stadium.

"I don't want people to be afraid of asking about it (his eye)," Bilanzich told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "It's a way to break the ice."

He'll wear it during games, Bilanzich said. Cornhusker opponents are bound to take notice, too. ■

"I don't want people to be afraid of asking about it (the glass eye). It's a way to break the ice."

**— Andy Bilanzich
freshman punter**



THEY COAXED ME INTO

**Unlike Sampson,
Phil Ellis didn't lose his
ability when he lost his
locks**

A *head for* D

The look is not for everyone. Phil Ellis realized that almost immediately. "It looked pretty neat," he said before the last of the Nebraska football team's two-a-day practices. "At the time, I thought it seemed like a good deal. I went willingly."

Ellis and some defensive teammates were sitting at the training table on the day the Cornhuskers reported for physicals and the start of fall camp. Someone suggested everyone get their heads shaved. "They coaxed me into it," said Ellis, a senior middle linebacker. "I said, 'All right.'"

The next thing Ellis knew, he was being sheared by Christian Peter. The result wasn't exactly what Ellis envisioned. "I found out I had a weird-shaped head," he said.

Of greater concern, however, was the response of Jennifer Jardine, his fiancée. The two, who have known each other since the fourth grade, according to Ellis, are to be married in January. The night of his haircut, Jennifer saw his no-hairdo. "She couldn't believe I did it," he said.

Since then, Ellis has been committed to undoing it. By the end of two-a-days, there was at least a semblance of stubble on his head. And his focus was on other things. Foremost among those things was preparing to defend the national championship, which remains his concern. Ellis is among Nebraska's defensive leaders, a responsibility he readily accepts.

IT. I SAID, 'ALL RIGHT'

"I know when we're slacking off, when we're having a bad practice," said Ellis, one of five returning starters from last season's defense — six counting rover Mike Minter, who suffered a season-ending knee injury while making a tackle in the third quarter of the Texas Tech game.

Ellis isn't shy about taking steps to rectify problems when he sees them. "I don't care who it is; I'll get in people's faces. I would tell Christian Peter to pick it up . . . though with Christian, I would

"I don't care who it is; I'll get in people's faces. I would tell Christian Peter to pick it up . . . though with Christian, I would never have to do that."

**— Phil Ellis
MIKE Linebacker**

never have to do that."

Ellis is the latest in a long line of outstanding Cornhusker football players from Grand Island,

Nebraska's third-largest city behind Omaha and Lincoln. Junior walkon Matt Vrzal, a backup center, is from Grand Island, as is offensive lineman Lonnie Fulton, a freshman recruit who will enroll and receive a scholarship in January. He underwent shoulder surgery in June.

Among those in the early days was Owen Frank, a halfback some-

times compared to 1950 All-American Bobby Reynolds, another Grand Island native. Tom Rathman, the definitive Cornhusker fullback, came from Grand Island, as did Harry Grimminger, who played in Nebraska's offensive line during the "Scoring Explosion" years. Cornhusker football lettermen from Grand Island over the past decade have included Dan Thayer, Scott Beckler, Jon Pederson and Todd Carpenter.

Among the most recent have been defensive tackle John Parrella, who played at Central Catholic High School, and linebacker Mike Anderson, with whom Ellis was a teammate at Grand Island High. Ellis was a high school sophomore the year Anderson was a senior. Because of their shared experience, when Ellis came to Nebraska as a scholarship recruit in 1991, "Mike kind of put me under his wing," Ellis said. "We got to be really good friends."

It is difficult not to have an affinity for the Cornhuskers when you play football in Grand Island. Ellis' high school coach was Ken Fischer, a Nebraska football letterman in the late 1940s. Fischer's brothers, Cletus, Rex and Pat, also played at Nebraska.

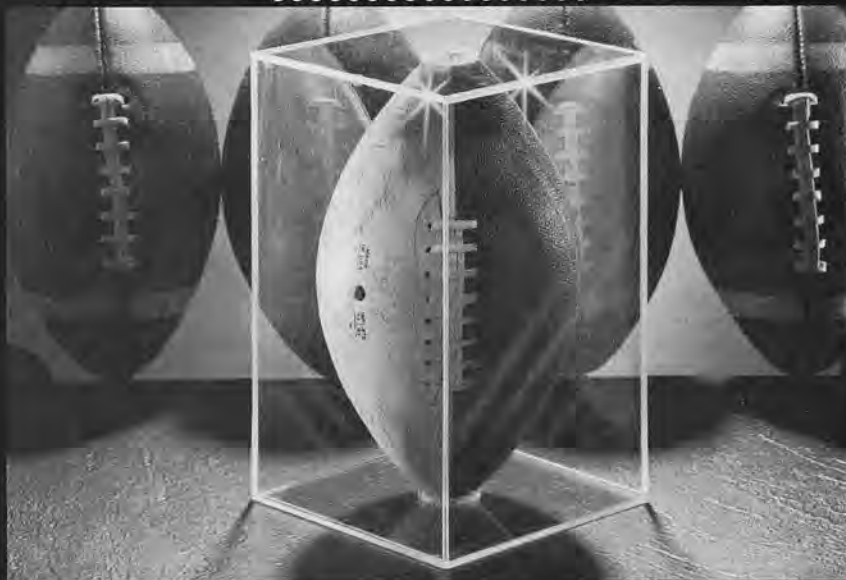
Coming from Grand Island can be both blessing and burden, according to Ellis, who was born in Onawa, Iowa, but grew up more or less an Islander. He moved with his mother to Los Alamos, N.M., and then to Fargo, N.D., before returning to Grand Island to live with an aunt and uncle and attend junior high.

"I really liked New Mexico," said Ellis. "It was pretty country. It was kind of sad to move."

He didn't feel the same way about North Dakota, however. More to the point, "I hated it," he said.

Ellis played Jayvee football in Grand Island as a fifth- and sixth-

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grader before moving away. When he returned, he resumed playing in a system that produced the aforementioned Cornhuskers, as well as others over the years. Ellis also competed in track and field through his sophomore year in high school.

He ran the hurdles. But "I kind of got a little big for that," Ellis said. "I could hold my own, but I weighed 230. So I concentrated on football."

Fischer made that easy enough. "People really respected Coach Fischer. He was a great coach. It was a great feeling to play for him. He was really a fun coach," Ellis said. "It you were a senior and stuck it out, he'd get you on the field. I liked that."

Ellis got on the field because of his ability rather than his persistence. He attended Nebraska's Big Red football camp during the summers of his sophomore and junior years in high school. Those experiences contributed to his decision to concentrate on football. The Cornhusker coaches took more than a passing interest in him, and in June following his junior year, they told him they would have a scholarship with his name on it, if he were so inclined. He was, of course.

Even so, the offer "really shocked



Doug DeVoe

Ellis found a home at the MIKE position last year, finishing fifth on the team in tackles with 58.

me," he said. "I was dumfounded."

He also was willing to make an oral commitment to Nebraska in August 1990, before his senior season at Grand Island and before he had an opportunity to look at other schools. "People told me: 'Take your recruiting trips.' People thought I was dumb because I didn't," Ellis said. Committing early, however,

"told Nebraska they didn't have to worry."

He didn't worry, either. "I never had second thoughts about coming here," he said.

Ellis played offensive guard as well as linebacker in high school. Though 230 pounds was heavy for a hurdler, it was light for a major college lineman, even if Ellis had wanted to try offense at Nebraska, which he didn't. He was chosen as the state high school defensive player of the

See ELLIS page 35



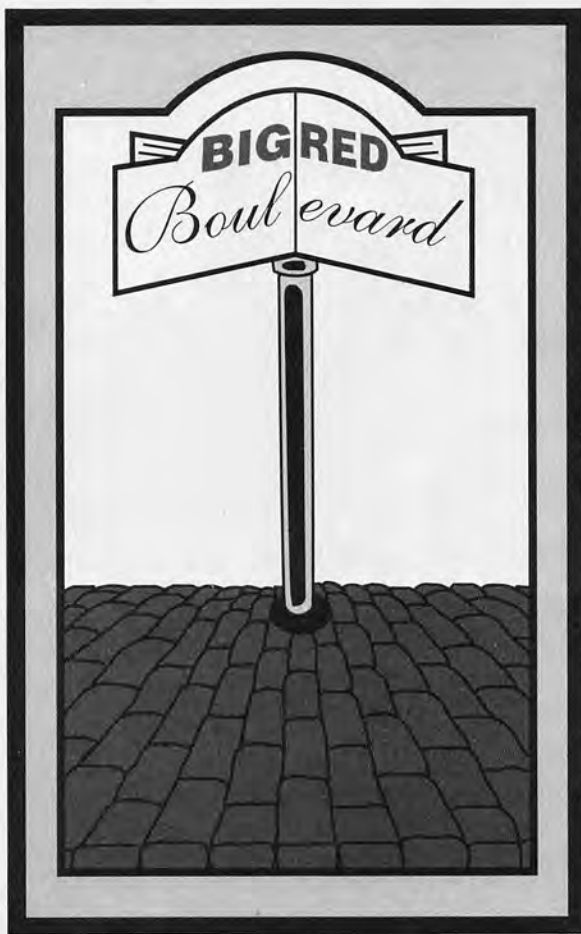
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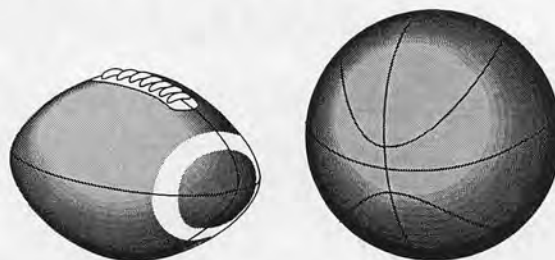
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Spartan Stadium • East Lansing, Mich.

SERIES RECORD: 2-0 (Nebraska leads)
LAST MEETING: Nebraska, under the direction of Henry Schulte, won its second meeting over the Spartans, 35-7 in 1920 at Lincoln.

SCOUTING REPORT

Rebuilt Spartans Open Saban Era

By Mark Derowitsch

When Nick Saban took over the Michigan State football program last December, he figured it would take some time to build the Spartans into national contenders. More time, however, than nine months.

That's how long Saban and the Spartans had to prepare for playing defending national champion Nebraska. Michigan State opens the Saban era on Sept. 9 by playing host to the Huskers.

And while Saban has had spring practice and fall camp to install his system at Michigan State, he readily admits the Spartans aren't talented enough to compete with the Huskers.

"You just have to teach guys to play better," Saban said. "It's just going to take awhile to build things. You have to get the players here to play better and have them play the way we want them to play. I think we can make a big improvement from that."

"But for me to say we're ready to play Nebraska would probably be a little bit of an overstatement. We're working hard to try to get ready."

The Spartans are coming off a 5-6 season under former coach George Perles, who resigned after a 12-year tenure at the school. In addition, the last time Michigan State had a winning season was 1990, when the Spartans went 8-3-1 and defeated Southern California in the John Hancock Bowl 17-16.

Saban's biggest concern heading into the 1995 season is the play of his offensive and defensive lines. The Spartans must replace seven interior linemen who started last year, a fact not lost on Saban.



After only nine months on the job, Nick Saban gets his first test against Nebraska.

However, the Spartans have a number of skilled players with experience, including quarterback Tony Banks. Banks completed 145-of-238 passes for 2,040 yards and 11 touchdowns a year ago. He's the top returning passer in the Big Ten Conference.

Banks will be joined in the backfield by tailback Duane Gouldbourne and fullback Scott Greene. Gouldbourne led Michigan State with 930 yards rushing and eight touchdowns as a junior. Green, who played tight end a year ago, was the

PRESS PICKS



• **Mike Babcock**, *Huskers Illustrated*: Michigan State will play with enthusiasm early under a new coach.

Michigan State may be excited early, but just as Nebraska did against Oklahoma State, the Huskers will settle down and play a typical Nebraska football game. But as the game wears on, Nebraska will overwhelm the Spartan defense with an offense operating behind a developing, but talented, line. Among the factors in Nebraska's favor is the fact that the Huskers have played a game and coach Tom Osborne regularly notes that teams make the most improvement from the first to the second game.

Nebraska 42, Michigan State 12.

• **Mitch Sherman**, *Daily Nebraskan*: Michigan State is going to be a tricky team to face at this point in the season due to having a new coach. I don't think that the Big Ten has been as strong as usual. If Nebraska plays up to expectations, the Huskers will outmatch MSU in the second half.

Nebraska 38, Michigan State 20.

• **Chris Solari**, *State News*: I think Michigan State can put up some points on the Nebraska defense. But, the Michigan State defense isn't the best at stopping the Nebraska-style option attack. The Cornhuskers' offense might just kill Michigan State. If the Spartan defense allows Lawrence Phillips to get outside, it could be over quick.

Nebraska 42, Michigan State 24.

• **Doug Looney**, college football freelance writer:

The encouraging thing is to see Nebraska is playing, by and large, real football teams this year. But Michigan State has had a rocky past and a rockier recent history. **Nebraska 21, Michigan State 10.**

team's leading receiver, hauling in 42 passes for 452 yards and three touchdowns.

Besides Greene, Banks will have a few other weapons to use in the Spartans' passing game. Junior Nigea Carter made 16 catches for 430 yards and Derrick Mason proved to be a dependable deep threat a year ago. Mason set a school record with 966 yards on kickoff returns, including a 100-yarder against Penn State. He also hooked up with Banks for a 93-yard touchdown reception, the longest in school history.

"We have a lot of skilled position players returning, including our quarterback," Saban said. "We have a good number of talented running backs and receivers, and Banks could be one of the top quarterbacks in the Big Ten. So if we can fill our shortage on the offensive and defensive lines, that will be a big step in the right direction."

The offensive line is thin, with left

guard Bob Denton as the only returning starter up front. Sophomores Scott Shaw and Dave Mudge will handle the duties at left tackles, junior Matt Beard will start at center and junior tackle Brian Mosallam and sophomore Flozell Adams will start on the right side.

The situation is similar on defense. End Yakini Allen is the lone returning starter on the line. He'll be joined in the starting lineup by senior Orion Hayes at left end and senior Robert McBride and junior Chris Smith at the tackle spots.

It doesn't get much better at linebacker or in the secondary. Junior Reggie Garnett and sophomore Ike Reese both started at linebacker last year, but outside 'backer Travis Reece has little experience.

Saban has two veterans to work with in the secondary in left cornerback Demetrice Martin and safety Robert Shurelds. But junior Brian Echols (safety) and sophomore Shon Hart (cornerback) will move into the starting lineup for the first time when they face the Huskers.

"We don't have enough good players on defense," Saban said. "We probably have five players who are legitimate and the rest are very average."

Saban knows all about reviving a program, though. For the past four years, Saban was the defensive coordinator with the NFL's Cleveland Browns. Last season, the Browns led the league in scoring defense, allowing just 204 points in 16 games. That



Michigan State University

Linebacker Reggie Garnett will be the heart of the Spartan defense early on in the season.

mark is the sixth best in NFL history.

"It took us four years to do it at Cleveland," he said. "We got a little better each year. It's a combination of two things: getting good players and having those players understand the system."

Saban is familiar with the Spartan program. He was the defensive coordinator at Michigan State from 1983-87 before he left to coach the secondary for the Houston Oilers from 1988-89.

Besides playing Nebraska, Michigan State must play at Illinois, at Wisconsin and host rival Michigan and Penn State. ■

1995 MICHIGAN ST. FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Overall/Conf.) — 0-0/0-0

Sept. 9	Nebraska
Sept. 16	@ Louisville
Sept. 23	@ Purdue
Sept. 30	Boston College
Oct. 7	Iowa
Oct. 14	@ Illinois
Oct. 21	Minnesota
Oct. 28	@ Wisconsin
Nov. 4	Michigan
Nov. 11	@ Indiana
Nov. 25	Penn State

MICHIGAN STATE VS. NEBRASKA TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	7	Reggie Baul	5-8	170	Sr
	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	180	Jr
LT	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	305	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	285	Jr
LG	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	295	So
	68	Steve Volin	6-2	290	Sr
C	54	Aaron Graham	6-4	285	Sr
	53	Matt Vrzal	6-1	290	Jr
RG	69	Steve Ott	6-4	275	Sr
	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	280	So
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	290	So
	77	Adam Treu	6-6	295	Jr
TE	87	Mark Gilman	6-3	240	Sr
	90	Tim Carpenter	6-2	230	So
QB	15	Tommie Frazier	6-2	2-5	Sr
	18	Brook Berringer	6-4	220	Sr
FB	22	Jeff Makovicka	5-10	215	Sr
	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	220	Jr
IB	1	Lawrence Phillips	6-0	200	Jr
	21	Damon Benning	5-11	205	Jr
WB	33	Clester Johnson	5-11	210	Sr
	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	190	Jr
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-11	190	Fr

SPARTAN DEFENSE

LE	92	Robert McBride	6-3	284	Sr
	98	Josh Freeman	6-6	265	So
LT	23	Yakini Allen	6-2	260	Sr
	62	Robert Newkirk	6-4	280	Fr
RT	96	Chris Smith	6-3	253	Jr
	67	Grant Reid	6-3	267	Fr
RE	94	Jabbar Threats	6-6	245	Jr
	97	Orion Hayes	6-5	249	Sr
SLB	41	Travis Reece	6-3	258	So
	55	Carl Reaves	6-4	227	Jr
MLB	22	Reggie Garnett	6-1	228	Jr
	37	Tyrone Garland	6-0	217	So
WLB	44	Ike Reese	6-3	221	So
	56	Dwayne Hawkins	6-3	215	Fr
LC	21	Demetrice Martin	5-10	183	Sr
	36	Aldi Henry	5-10	180	Jr
LS	18	Marvin Wright	6-1	218	Jr
	35	Brian Echols	6-2	192	Jr
RS	2	Robert Shurelds	6-2	171	Sr
	28	Dan Hackenbracht	6-2	185	So
RC	10	Ray Hill	6-1	178	So
	17	Shon Hart	5-9	178	So
P	88	Chris Salani	6-1	226	Jr

SPARTAN OFFENSE

WR	1	Muhsin Muhammad	6-2	210	Sr
	81	Nigea Carter	6-2	178	Jr
LT	60	Bob Denton	6-4	305	Sr
	65	Dave Mudge	6-7	287	So
LG	69	Tony Popovski	6-4	283	Sr
	73	Scott Shaw	6-3	295	So
C	52	Matt Beard	6-3	275	Jr
	69	Tony Popovski	6-4	283	Sr
RG	63	Brian Mosallam	6-2	280	Jr
	72	Don Walker	6-3	305	So
RT	76	Flozell Adams	6-7	335	So
	70	Dave Kehr	6-6	297	Jr
TE	83	Josh Keur	6-5	275	So
	19	Luke Benice	6-3	218	Sr
QB	12	Tony Banks	6-5	217	Sr
	4	Damien Hiram	6-5	198	So
FB	47	Scott Greene	5-11	227	Sr
	40	Mike Barry	6-1	212	So
TB	27	Duane Goulborne	5-10	197	Sr
	26	Marcel Renaud	5-10	181	So
WR	80	Derrick Mason	5-11	190	Jr
	9	Napoleon Outlaw	5-10	173	Sr
PK	14	Chris Gardener	5-10	180	Fr

HUSKER DEFENSE

OLB	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	250	Jr
	58	Luther Hardin	6-2	235	Sr
DT	55	Christian Peter	6-2	290	Sr
	94	Larry Townsend	6-4	300	Jr
DT	95	Jason Peter	6-4	275	So
	96	Jason Jenkins	6-5	280	Sr
OLB	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	230	So
	84	Mike Rucker	6-5	225	Fr
SLB	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	200	Fr
	23	Larry Arnold	6-4	225	Jr
MLB	41	Phil Ellis	6-2	220	Jr
	46	Doug Colman	6-4	240	Sr
WLB	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	220	Jr
	52	Aaron Penland	6-1	220	Sr
LC	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	180	Jr
	20	Michael Booker	6-2	190	Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	175	Jr
	4	Octavious McFarlin	5-11	180	So
FS	9	Tony Veland	6-2	205	Sr
	3	Eric Warfield	6-1	195	So
RC	8	Tyrone Williams	6-0	185	Sr
	12	Mike Fullman	5-7	160	Jr
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	180	So

Depth charts were compiled September 3, 1995 # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

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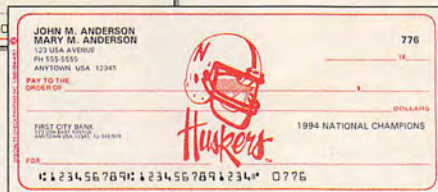
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OSU Suffers Slow Death In 43-Point Loss

George Darlington offered a succinct summation of Nebraska's season-opening victory against Oklahoma State during a post-game radio interview.

"It was hot and muggy, and we're pretty good," he said.

Other than the final score, which was 64-21, little else needed to be noted. "We overwhelmed 'em from the get-go," said Darlington, Nebraska's veteran defensive backs coach.

That was expected, of course. The Cornhuskers traveled to Stillwater, Okla., with a No. 2 pre-season ranking in the Associated Press poll and enough firepower to be a 26-point favorite against an Oklahoma State team with a new head coach and several new players, including four freshman starters.

The game was scripted to be a blowout, which is what Nebraska gave a Lewis Stadium crowd of 42,100 (that included an estimated 4,000 Nebraskans) and a national television audience on the ESPN cable network. The stands had emptied by the fourth quarter. And it's likely

all but the most dedicated fans who watched on television had begun channel surfing before James Sims, the Cornhuskers' No. 3 I-back, finished the scoring by running 5 yards for a touchdown with 7:02 remaining.

The adrenaline and enthusiasm of a new season carried Oklahoma State for less than nine minutes. With 6:20 left in the first quarter, Lawrence Phillips opened the scoring with a 3-yard touchdown run. Nebraska's Heisman Trophy candidate I-back would score two more touchdowns in the second quarter and be given the rest of the night off three

carries into the second half.

Cornhusker quarterback Tommie Frazier, who also is being promoted for the Heisman Trophy, performed in what has become typical fashion, carrying 10 times for 64 yards and one touchdown and completing 6-of-10 passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns.

The first touchdown pass play, to split end Reggie Baul, covered 76 yards. The second, to wingback Jon Vedral, went only 5 yards.

The remaining points all were scored by newcomers: Ahman Green, Terrell Farley and Kris Brown. Green, a freshman I-back from Omaha, made his

The 64-21 blowout allowed the Husker bench to clear and highly-touted freshman I-back Ahman Green the chance to score his first collegiate touchdown on this 14-yard scamper.



Oklahoma State game photos by Harry Lentz, Jr.







debut by running 14 yards for a touchdown. Farley, a linebacker who transferred from Independence, Kan., Community College, intercepted a pass and returned it 29 yards for Nebraska's second touchdown. And Brown, a freshman from Southlake, Texas, kicked a 24-yard field goal and seven extra points.

There was little in which Cornhusker fans could have found fault during Nebraska's first defense of its national championship. The Cornhuskers did have some minor problems early on. Phillips lost a fumble on his second carry. Tyrone Williams muffed a punt. Baul, wide-open, stumbled and couldn't quite reach a pass from Frazier. And Brown pulled his first collegiate extra-point kick wide to the left.

But those mistakes did little more than delay the inevitable. The Cornhuskers scored 30 points in the second quarter to eliminate any chance of an Oklahoma State upset. "Overall, the execution was good," Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne said.

Nebraska's defense, which included six first-time starters, took control in the first series. On first down, Oklahoma State quarterback Tone Jones threw an incomplete pass. On second down, David Thompson was dropped for a 4-yard loss by Jay Foreman, a redshirted freshman. And on third down, Jones was sacked for an 11-yard loss by Jared Tomich. "We came out and stuck it to them," said Tomich, a junior outside linebacker from St. John, Ind.

Tomich made four tackles, including two for losses totaling 22 yards, and deflected two passes.

Farley, who blocked 15 kicks in junior college, stepped in front of a Jones pass early in the second quarter and sprinted 29 yards to score. The Cornhuskers played "OK," Farley said. Such understatements were commonplace.

"We've had some tough games down here. It went a little easier than I thought it would," said Osborne, who used all 66 players who made the trip. Nebraska was granted permission by the Big Eight Conference to increase its travel roster by six for the game because of the potential for heat and high humidity.

Chris Dishman (75) and his offensive line teammates pancaked plenty of Pokes while proving they could pick up where last year's line left off.

ty. The temperature at game time was 99 degrees.

"We got a lot of experience to a lot of young players. Hopefully, it was good," Osborne said.

Nebraska used numerous newcomers, among them Foreman, Farley, Green, Brown, Michael Rucker, Joel Makovicka, Sheldon Jackson, Kenny Cheatham, Chad Kelsay, Eric Warfield and Mike Fullman, a transfer from Rutgers University by way of junior college. Kelsay, an outside linebacker from Auburn, Neb., is a true freshman along with Green and Brown.

Nebraska's defense was nearly

impenetrable and had only one serious breakdown. That occurred in the second quarter, on a third-and-10 from the Oklahoma State 20-yard line, when tailback David Thompson went off his left guard and raced 79 yards to the Cornhusker 1-yard line. Even then, Oklahoma State needed two plays to score, on Andre Richardson's run.

Nebraska originally was scheduled to play at Oklahoma State on Oct. 7. But the Cornhuskers agreed to switch the game not only to accommodate ESPN but also to gain experience before playing at Michigan State. It marked the first

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time Nebraska has opened a season with a conference game since 1948. Big Eight teams haven't opened against each other since 1961.

"It was kind of a gamble playing this game," said Osborne.

Because Oklahoma State coach Bob Simmons is new, Nebraska was "flying blind. We looked at a lot of Colorado defense (on film)" because Simmons came from Colorado.

we're good."

Even so, there is a certain amount of posturing that must be done in order to be considered as a national championship contender. "We hope we came across well on TV," said Osborne. "That's a terrible thing to say, but you've got to look good on television these days to have a chance."

During his weekly news confer-

difficult, but I don't want the players thinking they can't do it. I want them to believe they can and to expect to do it," he said.

The victory against Oklahoma State (0-1) was a good way to begin.

Among the few low points during the game as far as the Nebraska fans watching on television were concerned occurred early in the fourth quarter when ESPN cut away from

"SOMEBODY HAS TO WIN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. IT MIGHT AS WELL BE US."

— Tom Osborne

"Mostly we worked on the right things," Osborne said.

The Spartans also have a new head coach, in Nick Saban, a former National Football League assistant. The game will be Michigan State's opener. "Having played a game will be to our advantage," Osborne said. "A lot of times, a team will improve the most between the first and second game. We hope that is true, but a lot will depend on attitude. We have a lot to prove before we can say

ence on the Monday before the Oklahoma State game, Osborne discussed his team's chances of repeating as national champion. The Cornhuskers are "as capable as anybody out there," he said. "Somebody has to win the national championship. It might as well be us." However, "saying it and doing it are two different things.

"Most people in Nebraska probably have it a little out of kilter how easy it could be. It's going to be very

the game to show an at-bat in a New York Yankees' baseball game. Yankee Paul O'Neill had hit three home runs in the game, and ESPN provided coverage in anticipation of a fourth. O'Neill struck out.

While ESPN was showing that, Ahman Green was running 14 yards for his first touchdown as a Cornhusker. For Nebraska football fans, that was a much more significant accomplishment, even if O'Neill had hit home run No. 4. ■

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STATISTICS VS. OKLAHOMA STATE

AUGUST 31, 1995

SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	6	30	14	14	— 64
OKLAHOMA STATE	0	7	7	7	— 21

TEAM STATS

	NU	OSU
First Downs	28	14
Rushing	23	5
Passing	5	9
Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	55	38
Yards Gained Rushing	517	189
Yards Lost Rushing	4	45
Net yards rushing	513	144
Net yards passing	158	138
Passes attempted	20	27
Passes completed	12	11
Had intercepted	1	3
Total plays	75	65
Total net yards	671	282
Avg. gain per play	8.9	4.3
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	6-55	5-33
Punts-yards	1-53	7-304
Avg. per punt	53.0	43.4
Possession time	29:55	30:05

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Hesse	4	5	9	0	0
Stokes	2	4	6	0	0
McFarlin	4	2	6	0	0
Rucker	1	4	5	0	0
Foreman	1	3	4	0	0
Peter, C.	0	4	4	0	0
Penland	1	3	4	0	0
Tomich	3	1	4	2	0
Ellis	2	2	4	1	0
Wistrom	0	3	3	0	0
Saltsman	2	1	3	1	0
Arnold	1	2	3	0	0
Kelsay	1	2	3	0	0
Terwilliger	2	1	3	0	0
Minter	1	1	2	0	0
Warfield	2	0	2	0	0
Dennis	1	1	2	0	1
Farley	2	0	2	0	1

OKLAHOMA STATE

Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Fisher	8	3	11	0	0
Johnson	6	4	10	0	0
McQuarters	4	1	5	0	0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Phillips	12	153	12.7	80	3
Frazier	10	64	6.4	19	1
Benning	8	62	7.8	15	0
Joel Makovicka	6	55	9.1	39	0
Green	6	52	8.6	18	1
Jeff Makovicka	4	46	11.5	33	0
Sims	4	34	8.5	17	1
Berringer	1	17	17.0	17	0

OKLAHOMA STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Thompson	16	128	8.0	79	1
Richardson	10	19	1.9	9	1
Grenier	2	-1	-0.5	0	0
Jones	10	-2	-0.2	25	0

PASSING NEBRASKA

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Frazier	10-6-0	120	2
Berringer	8-5-0	31	0
Turman	2-1-1	7	0

OKLAHOMA STATE

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Jones	27-11-3	138	1

RECEIVING NEBRASKA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Gilman	3	31	10.3	12	0
Holbein	3	21	7.0	9	0
Baul	1	76	76.0	76	1
Johnson	1	9	9.0	9	0
Phillips	1	7	7.0	7	0
Lake	1	7	7.0	7	0
Vedral	1	5	5.0	5	1

OKLAHOMA STATE

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Mayes	4	72	18.0	23	0
Richardson	2	20	10.0	10	0
Luck	2	16	8.0	11	0
McQuarters	1	12	12.0	12	0
Grissom	1	10	10.0	10	0
Grenier	1	8	8.0	8	1

PUNT/KICKOFF RETURNS NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Lng	TD
Baul	2	4	4	0
Williams	2	15	12	0

OKLAHOMA STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Lng	TD
McQuarters	6	141	35	0

1995 SEASON STATS

(1 GAME)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Phillips	1	12	153	153.0	3
Frazier	1	10	64	64.0	1
Benning	1	8	62	62.0	0
Makovicka, Joel	1	6	55	55.0	0
Green	1	6	52	52.0	1
Makovick, Jeff	1	4	46	46.0	0
Sims	1	4	34	34.0	1
Schuster	1	3	23	23.0	0
Berringer	1	1	17	17.0	0
Turman	1	1	7	7.0	0

PASSING

Name	G	A-C-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frazier	1	10-6-0	.600	120	2
Berringer	1	8-5-0	.625	31	0
Turman	1	2-1-1	.500	7	0

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Gilman	1	3	31	10.3	31.0	0
Holbein	1	3	21	7.0	21.0	0
Baul	1	1	76	76.0	76.0	1
Johnson	1	1	9	9.0	9.0	0
Phillips	1	1	7	7.0	7.0	0
Lake	1	1	7	7.0	7.0	0
Vedral	1	1	5	5.0	5.0	1
Cheatham	1	1	2	2.0	2.0	0

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Hesse	1	4	5	9	0	0
Stokes	1	2	4	6	0	0
McFarlin	1	4	2	6	0	0
Rucker	1	1	4	5	0	0
Foreman	1	1	3	4	0	0
Peter, C.	1	0	4	4	0	0
Penland	1	1	3	4	0	0
Tomich	1	3	1	4	0	2
Ellis	1	2	2	4	0	1
Wistrom	1	0	3	3	0	0
Saltsman	1	2	1	3	0	1
Arnold	1	1	2	3	0	0
Kelsay	1	1	2	3	0	0
Terwilliger	1	2	1	3	0	0
Minter	1	1	1	2	0	0
Warfield	1	2	0	2	0	0
Dennis	1	1	1	2	1	0
Worthy	1	1	1	2	0	0
Williams	1	2	0	2	0	0
Veland	1	0	2	2	0	0
Farley	1	2	0	2	1	0
Fullman	1	1	0	1	0	0
Booker	1	0	1	1	0	0
Jenkins	1	1	0	1	0	0
Hardin	1	1	0	1	0	0
Colman	1	0	1	1	0	0

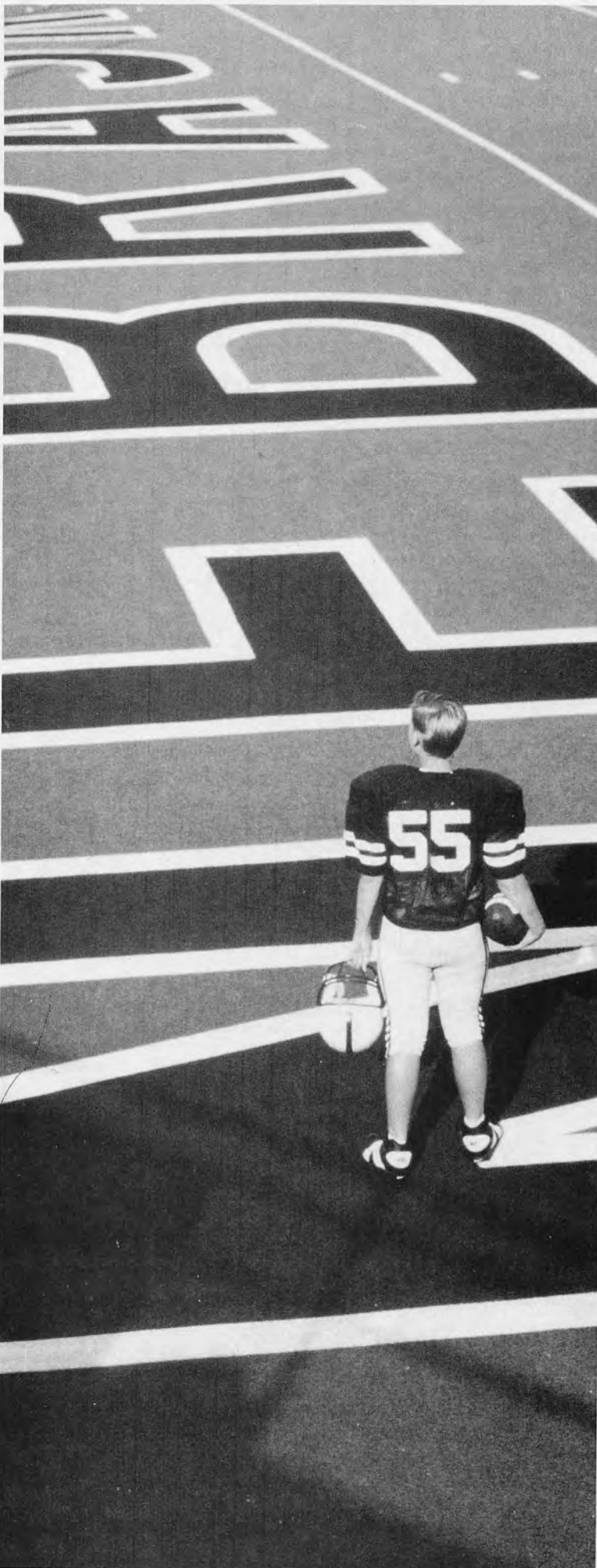
TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards	671	282			
Net Rushing Yards	513	144			
Passing Yards	158	138			
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT
NU	6	30	14	14	64
Opponents	0	7	7	7	21

1995 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Conference) — 1-0

Aug. 31	@ Oklahoma St.	W, 64-21
Sept. 9	@ Michigan St.	
Sept. 16	Arizona St.	
Sept. 23	Pacific	
Sept. 30	Washington St.	
Oct. 14	Missouri	
Oct. 21	Kansas St.	
Oct. 28	@ Colorado	
Nov. 4	Iowa St.	
Nov. 11	@ Kansas	
Nov. 25	Oklahoma	



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AFTER THE GAME

Former Nebraska fullback Tom Rathman adjusts to life off the field following successful stints on both the collegiate and professional level

The most memorable moment in Tom Rathman's football career occurred at Memorial Stadium in late October of 1985. Nebraska was playing Colorado. And he was a Cornhusker senior.

The score was tied at 7. Nebraska had a first down at its own 16-yard line, following a 38-yard punt by the Buffaloes' Barry Helton. The scoreboard showed 37 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

Travis Turner, who had come on to replace a struggling McCathorn Clayton at quarterback in the second half, took the snap and handed the ball to Rathman, who powered his way off the block of the left guard and ran 84 yards for what proved to be the winning touchdown in a 17-7 victory.

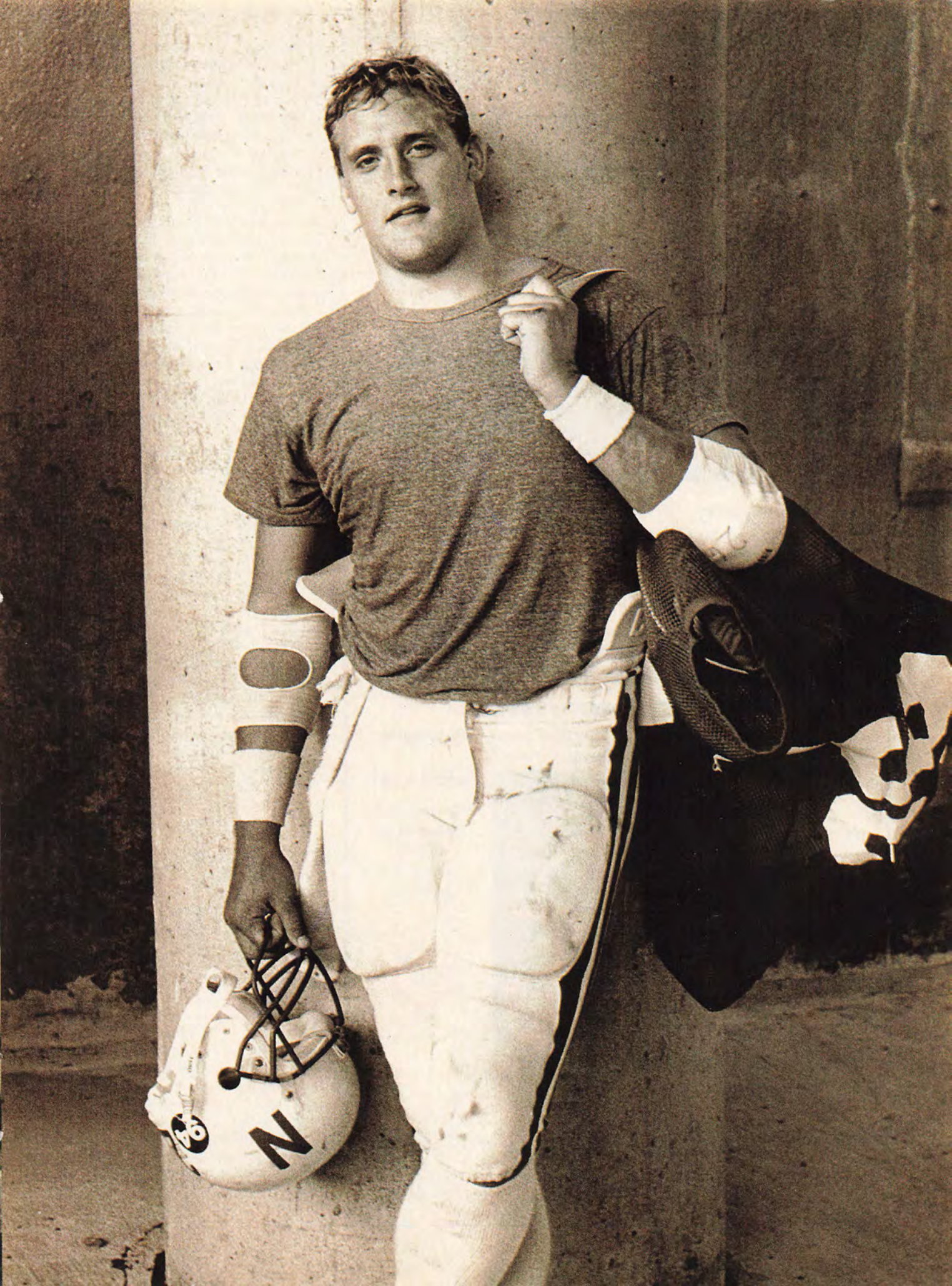
ABC, which was televising the game on a split-national basis,

missed all but the final yards of Rathman's dramatic run. A promotional ad for the University of Colorado shown by the network extended beyond the commercial break for a timeout following the change in possession.

Afterward, an ABC producer admitted he had gambled on the play and lost. "Once he's broken through, you tell the (network) guy in Chicago to punch out (of the promotional ad) and cut to the game. But a guy runs 40 yards in 4.5 seconds and a lot of yards can clip by before you get the communications through," the producer said. The play used up 14 seconds on the stadium clock.

Even though much of the nation didn't see much of the play, those who mattered most to Rathman were able to share in his triumph. His hometown of Grand Island was

by mike babcock



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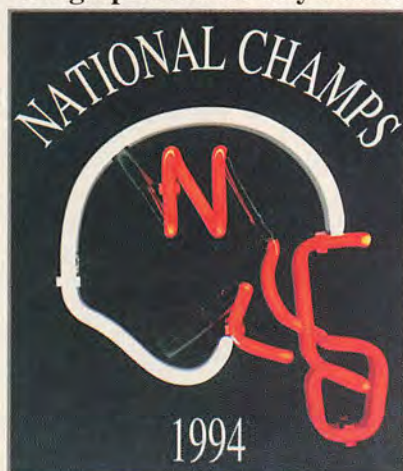
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celebrating "Tom Rathman Day" at the game. Family and friends as well as teammates and coaches saw it, which mattered. And Nebraska, ranked fifth nationally at the time, needed the touchdown for its sixth consecutive victory after a 17-13, opening-game loss against Florida State. That also mattered.

The run showed Rathman's speed and athletic ability, and it characterized a playing career that extended through nine seasons in the National Football League, during which he earned two Super Bowl rings.

His NFL career could have continued, for at least one more season. "I'm still in good shape," Rathman said during a recent telephone interview from his home in Redwood City, Calif. But he and his family decided the time had come for him to retire.

Before the start of training camp in July, Rathman notified the Oakland Raiders of his decision. "I left on top," said Rathman, who started 16 games last season.

Most successful athletes are positive thinkers, and Rathman is no exception. But even he didn't envision a nine-year professional career after establishing himself among the best fullbacks in Nebraska history. His 881 rushing yards in 1985 are a record for Cornhusker fullbacks.

Rathman was a third-round draft pick of the San Francisco 49ers in 1986. He was the 56th player overall and the fourth fullback drafted. The first three were Florida's Neal Anderson, Texas A&M's Anthony Toney and Texas Christian's Kenneth Davis. None proved to be as good as Rathman.

"When I first went into the league, I thought if I get in seven years, that would be a big-time career," said Rathman, who played eight of his nine seasons with the 49ers. "When I got to seven years, I felt great and thought I would go for 10 years. But when I got to nine, the desire wasn't the same."

He missed eight games and 12 starts because of a separated right shoulder in 1993. And last season he was bothered by a severely jammed neck. Fullbacks learn to play with jammed necks. Even so, Rathman had to play in pain for the better part of five weeks.

Someone less committed might not have played. But Rathman's durability was, in part, a function of his willingness to play through injuries. "It's not like I was sitting on the bench those nine years I was

playing," he said.

Rathman didn't miss a game because of injury until the end of his seventh NFL season. He sat out the last game, even though he would have played had his coaches allowed him to do so.

"When I was playing, I felt like I was indestructible," said Rathman, who became a fixture on television analyst John Madden's All-Madden team because of his hard-nosed, never-back-down approach to the game. "I played hurt. I don't see how I did most of it. You'd think my body would have fallen apart. But you get shot up and come back feeling about as good as new. Until the next day, anyway."

Rathman was a regular on San Francisco's special teams. He wore the "Bruise Crew" wristbands that only the hardcore members of those teams were allowed to wear.

On the opening kickoff of Super Bowl XXIII against the Cincinnati Bengals, he knocked down a would-be tackler with a violent block that caused his own arm to go numb because of a pinched nerve. "The first three or four plays (from scrimmage), I couldn't feel my arm. I was praying to the Lord that they wouldn't call my number. But it was the Super Bowl, my first Super Bowl," Rathman said. "You think I was going to come out of that game? No way."

The 49ers defeated Cincinnati 20-16 to provide Rathman with his first Super Bowl ring. The second came a year later, with a decisive 55-10 victory against the Denver Broncos. Rathman scored two touchdowns and caught four first-half passes to help San Francisco break open the game.

Rathman was the best pass-catching fullback, or running back for that matter, in the league in 1989, finishing the regular season with 73 receptions, second only to Jerry Rice's 82 among the 49ers' receivers.

Rathman caught 320 passes for 2,684 yards and eight touchdowns during his NFL career, remarkable totals considering he caught only five passes for 70 yards and one touchdown during three varsity seasons at Nebraska. He caught two passes as a sophomore and three as a senior. At Grand Island High School, he caught "probably zero passes," he said.

Rathman also rushed for 2,020 yards and 26 touchdowns as a pro-

fessional. But statistics are a poor measure of his largely anonymous contributions to teams that featured high-profile stars such as Rice, former Cornhusker running back Roger Craig, quarterback Joe Montana and safety Ronnie Lott. Of that group, only Lott and Rice are still playing, Rice with the 49ers.

Rathman left San Francisco as an unrestricted free agent, signing with the Raiders after the 49ers indicated they wanted him to take a significant cut in pay because of the NFL's salary cap. The prospect of having to compete for the starting fullback job with the Raiders, who obtained Derrick Fenner from Cincinnati during the off-season, and the possibili-



San Francisco 49ers

During his nine NFL seasons, Tom Rathman showed that a fullback could do more than bury linebackers.

ty of being a backup contributed to Rathman's decision to retire. "I didn't want to go in as a backup," he said.

The 32-year-old Rathman, who had been thinking about retirement since last season, included his wife Holly and their three daughters — Nicole (8), Alexandra (6) and Samantha (3) — in the decision-making. "We tried to look at all the options," he said. "My kids were pretty happy about it."

He and Holly plan to serve as athletic directors at their daughters' Notre Dame Elementary School, and Tom has accepted a position as an assistant football coach at Serra High School in nearby San Mateo. He'll work with the running backs, of

course.

"That's something I was looking to do," said Rathman, who talks regularly on the telephone with Ken Fischer, his own high school football coach, now retired. "I'm close to Coach Fischer. He was a very dominant coach, and I would like to do that in high school, or maybe at Nebraska."

The Rathman family lives in the house he and Holly purchased following his rookie season. They own two lots in south Lincoln, about an acre of land, on which they might eventually build. They bought the lots "four or five years ago," Rathman said. "We didn't know what our long-term plans were then."

Now, they plan to remain in Redwood City, at least until their daughters reach high school age. They have handled their money wisely and are set financially, said Rathman. "We're very conservative. We didn't buy a big house, and we didn't get caught up in that extreme lifestyle."

He and Holly have committed \$250,000 for an endowed football scholarship at Nebraska. They haven't forgotten their roots, or lost their perspective.

While Tom was playing for the Cornhuskers, Holly worked full-time as a manager at an Olympic Village athletic shoe store. The couple lived in a Lincoln mobile home park. Rathman has fond recollections of that time. "We were living large then, you know," he said with a laugh.

Success hasn't spoiled or changed him. "I grew up having to work for everything I got. That's how I approach everything. I just go about my business. Train hard. Play hard. Play hurt," he said. "When you look at the nine years I played (in the NFL), there are no flaws. That's how I wanted it to be, no controversy. That's one reason I got out now."

Rathman said he might attend one game each of the 49ers and Raiders, who are returning to Oakland, this season. Redwood City is just south of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay area. It just depends on how much free time he has to be a fan. "I'll probably be caught up in my own things," he said.

For the first time since early childhood, those things won't include playing football. ■

HUNGRY

Bernard Garner was hungry. "I need me an apple pie," he said.

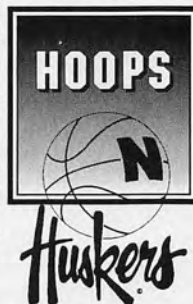
Presumably, he meant an individual fruit pie, common at fast-food restaurants and in vending machines. But he could have meant the real thing, an entire apple pie.

Garner is 6-foot-7, 227 pounds. And he has a college student's metabolism. Plus, his appetite might have been intensified by the nervous energy of his first day of classes at the University of Nebraska. It might have been, although he certainly didn't seem to be stressed out.

"College life is real outrageous," he said. "You haven't lived unless you've been to college."

Counting Nebraska, Garner has been to three. And he couldn't be happier, he said, as he sat in the sports information office recently and retraced his sojourn to Lincoln.

It began in northwest Louisiana, specifically in Many, the seat of Sabine Parish, located on U.S. Highway 171 about halfway between Zwolle and Florien. Just to the west is Toledo Bend Reservoir and Texas. To the east and little north is Natchitoches, hometown of the NBA's Joe Dumars.



**Apple pie or basketball.
It doesn't matter.
Transfer Bernard
Garner is ready
to consume both dessert
and foes**

Mark Rein

Natchitoches is the largest town in the area, according to Garner. With a population of nearly 17,000, it is more than five times as large as Many.

The first of Garner's post-secondary schools was South Florida Community College in Avon Park, Fla. He had planned to attend Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas, but somehow was persuaded to go to Florida. That was a mistake. "It was terrible, just crazy, the whole environment," he said.

He went home to Many for the Christmas holidays, and never went back to Avon Park. While he was in Many, Garner attended a high school basketball tournament and talked to some coaches about his interest in finding another junior college. He vowed to accept the first offer he got, which came from Dave Campbell, the coach at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Neb.

Soon after Campbell's call, Garner was contacted by Hutchinson Community College. If Hutchinson had been first, Garner said, he would have gone to the Kansas school.

He never second-guessed himself about choosing the Scottsbluff school, though he wondered a little when people kept responding to his choice of junior colleges with: "You're going where?"

"I thought I must be going somewhere terrible," said Garner, who had never been to Nebraska, much less Scottsbluff. His initial impression was snow-covered, and "I had never seen snow. It was cold. I wondered: 'What have I gone and gotten myself into?'"

Garner enrolled at Western Nebraska Community College for the second semester and got his grades in order (which is why he went to a two-year school in the first place), then helped Campbell's team win 68 of 79 games over the next two seasons.

Western Nebraska finished 36-4 and third in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament in Hutchinson last season. Garner averaged 19 points and eight rebounds and was chosen national junior college player of the year.

Garner's decision to come to Nebraska was about as surprising as the one that took him to Scottsbluff. Campbell and his team stopped in Lincoln on the way to play in St. Joseph, Mo., at the beginning of last

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Dorado			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
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Sailfish					+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Shark					+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
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season. They toured the Nebraska campus and attended a Cornhusker practice.

Garner connected immediately. "I just got this feeling, an urge to come here," he said.

Soon after that, he called former Cornhusker assistant Gary Borgen to say that he wanted to sign an early letter of intent with Nebraska and eliminate the hassles of recruiting. It wasn't until later that he watched the Cornhuskers play at the Devaney Sports Center. Garner liked what he saw.

"I wanted to come to a school where I knew I'd fit in and have some fan support," he said. "The fan support is just terrific here."

He played four varsity basketball seasons in high school, but only one season of football. He tried playing tight end as a sophomore. "I caught one pass and got hit by an All-

American linebacker," he said. "I knew then and there that football wasn't for me."

His decision proved to be great for the Huskers as he is expected to have an immediate impact, filling a much-publicized need inside. "My goal is to play like Bernard played at (Nebraska) Western: rebound, score,

whatever it takes to win," he said, referring to himself.

"We want to win 20 or more games, hopefully the Big Eight (title) and make the (NCAA) tournament. You've got to have great teamwork, hang together. I played on a successful team in junior college and went out proud. I can feel what the seniors are feeling here. I know they're hungry."

It was a different type of hunger than he felt that day.

"I need an apple pie," Garner said. ■

**"I wanted
to come to a
school where I
knew I'd
fit in and have
some fan
support.**

**The fan
support is just
terrific here."**

**— Bernard
Garner**



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ELLIS

From page 15

year as a senior at Grand Island, and defense was what the Cornhuskers wanted him to play.

Nebraska played a 5-2 base defense when Ellis arrived, and red-shirted. It was similar to the defense Fischer taught at Grand Island. But Ellis was told during his recruitment that the Cornhuskers would be changing their defensive philosophy.

Among the changes would be a switch to a 4-3 base alignment. When Nebraska's defense didn't change immediately, Ellis began to wonder. "Then, all of a sudden, we went to a 4-3," he said. "It's surprising they think that far ahead."

Because of his high school experience, Ellis was familiar with a 5-2 defense. But he was better suited physically to the Cornhuskers' new scheme, which placed a premium on speed rather than size. Ellis isn't a typical, Dick Butkus-type middle linebacker.

He was a weak-side backup to Ed Stewart and Troy Branch in 1992 and 1993. Last season, he alternated with

Doug Colman, a more traditional middle linebacker, moving in as the starter against Colorado and remaining there.

Ellis finished fifth on the team in tackles with 58, including 24 unassisted. He was second in tackles for loss, with 7.5 for 21 yards in losses. He had seven tackles, one pass break-up and one quarterback hurry in the 24-17 victory against Miami in the 1995 Orange Bowl game on New Year's night. And that's where he planned to pick up this season.

The shaved heads of several defensive players were a topic of conversation at Nebraska's media day. "It's pretty ugly," sophomore outside linebacker Grant Wistrom said with a smile. Wistrom's head was newly shaved, as was that of senior outside linebacker Jared Tomich, who stood nearby.

Christian Peter had shaved his head, Wistrom said. And Christian's brother Jason had shaved Tomich's head.

Wistrom said he figured he might keep the look all season.

"Not me," Ellis said. "It's not like a defensive thing."

And even if it were, he'd have to defer to the wishes of his fiancée. ■

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Mister Touchdown

One of Nebraska's first pure offensive stars, Bobby Reynolds made shattering scoring and rushing records seem easy

Editor's Note — This is the second of an 11-part series featuring the best Nebraska running backs of the modern era. Next week we'll profile Harry Wilson.

It was the defining moment in the sophomore season that defined Bobby Reynolds' collegiate career. Nebraska faced fourth-down-and-short at Memorial Stadium at the Missouri 33-yard line with six minutes remaining in the Cornhuskers' Homecoming game.

The crowd numbered 38,000. The date was Nov. 4, 1950.

Reynolds, a 19-year-old sophomore halfback, got the ball. Already, he had earned a reputation for an uncanny ability to set up blockers, as the play illustrated in dramatic fashion. Reynolds gave ground and reversed field three times.

Charles Toogood, a 6-foot, 220-pound senior tackle from North Platte, Neb., knocked down a Missouri defender during the run and wouldn't let him up, despite the Tiger's protestations that Reynolds had passed by. Indeed he had, Toogood reportedly told the downed defender. But he might come back.

Bob Broeg, writing for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, described Reynolds' remarkable run, which ended in a touchdown, thus: "He head-faked one guy, swivel-hipped another and set out for the goal now 60 crow-flight yards away. He picked up three nice blocks, stepped away from another tackler and took advantage of two more blocks. It was an astounding run. The kid stands out like a neon light."

Reynolds' run in a 40-34 Nebraska victory that afternoon was a shining moment in a scintillating season that retains its glow nearly half a century later. Stanley Woodward, a noted sports writer in Reynolds' time, wrote: "This fellow cannot be tied up. His changes of pace, lightning cuts and general speed and toughness combine to make him one of the greatest running threats of the current era."

Reynolds was like a shooting star, flaring up and then dying out. But more about that later . . .

top 10 Running Backs In The Modern Era

Bobby Reynolds.....	1950-52
Harry Wilson	1964-66
Jeff Kinney	1969-71
I.M. Hipp	1977-79
Jarvis Redwine	1979-80
Mike Rozier	1981-83
Keith Jones	1984-87
Ken Clark	1987-89
Derek Brown	1990-92
Calvin Jones	1991-93

He was an athletic celebrity long before he arrived at Nebraska in the fall of 1949. "Everybody knew Bobby from high school," said Don Bryant, Nebraska's associate athletic director for public relations.

Bryant was a university student and aspiring sports writer for *The Lincoln Star* when Reynolds arrived as a freshman. He watched the first few games of Reynolds' varsity career before being recalled to the Marines in the fall of 1950 to serve in Korea.

Reynolds came from Grand Island, Neb., with high school press clippings to fill several scrapbooks.

He was a two-time all-state football player at Grand Island High, on teams that won state championships his junior and senior years. He probably would have been a three-time all-state selection had he not been sidelined for half of his sophomore year by a leg injury.

Reynolds never played in a losing high school football game. He also competed in track, basketball and baseball. Grand Island won two state basketball championships during his time. In the summer of 1949, he attended a New York Yankees' try-out at Branson, Mo. Among those in Branson was another infielder from

Oklahoma named Mickey Mantle. Reynolds had been scouted by several major league baseball teams while in high school. But he chose to attend Nebraska, in order to play football as well as baseball.

He made his Cornhusker varsity debut on Sept. 30, 1950, at Memorial Stadium. The afternoon was unseasonably warm. Fathers of the players were honored at the game. The opponent was Indiana of the Big Ten.

Reynolds was one of two sophomores in Coach Bill Glassford's starting lineup, the other being fullback Clayton Curtis from Laurel, Neb. The line included Frank Simon and Dick Regier at ends, Toogood and Walt Spellman at tackles, Art Bauer and Don Strasheim at guards and Joe McGill at center. Bill Mueller was listed as the starting right halfback, and Fran Nagle, one of two non-Nebraskans in the lineup, was the quarterback.

The 5-foot-11, 175-pound Reynolds scored his first touchdown by plunging into the end zone with two defenders clinging to him. He ran 45 yards for a second and added a third. The game finished in a 20-20 tie. Reynolds, who kicked two extra points, scored all of Nebraska's points. He could do everything: run, pass, punt, kick placements and play defense.

The next week, Reynolds scored 14 points in a 32-26 victory against Minnesota at Minneapolis. One of his two touchdowns came on a 67-yard run. He shed tears of joy in the locker room afterward. He wasn't the least bit ashamed, he said later, noting it was a big victory for Nebraska. Two games into his college career, it was apparent Reynolds was special.

Nebraska lost to a good Colorado team at Boulder, Colo., 28-19 in the following week. Reynolds scored all 19 points. The Cornhuskers would win five in a row before losing again, beginning with a 19-0 victory against Penn State at Memorial Stadium.

Reynolds scored all 19 points against the Nittany Lions, too. Four games into the season, his totals were: 679 rushing yards on 78 carries, an average of 8.7 yards per attempt; 11 touchdowns, including two on pass receptions; and six extra-point kicks. He had scored 72 of Nebraska's 90 total points.

Bryant watched the Penn State game before reporting for duty with the Marines. "The place went nuts as

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Bobby went on," Bryant said.

As the victories mounted, so did Reynolds' scoring total. And the majority of his touchdowns were anything but mundane. Reynolds would score 22 touchdowns in 1950, and 18 of them were on plays of 11 yards or more. The average distance of those 18 touchdowns was 28.5 yards. He was the embodiment of exciting. A *Collier's* magazine story after the 1950 season called him "Mr. Touchdown."

Nebraska went to Norman, Okla., for its final game of the 1950 season against No. 1-ranked and undefeated Oklahoma with a national ranking of its own in the Associated Press poll. The Cornhuskers were No. 16.

Though they lost to Coach Bud Wilkinson's national championship team, they put up a good fight. The final score was 49-35. Glassford's 1950 team, his second at Nebraska, finished 6-2-1. The Cornhuskers were second in the Big Seven and No. 17 in the final Associated Press poll.

Reynolds finished with a modern Nebraska record of 1,342 rushing yards, averaging 6.95 yards per

carry. He scored the 22 touchdowns and 25 extra points, for a total of 157, a national collegiate record.

He averaged 6.95 yards per carry, and 17.4 points per game. His school single-season rushing record would

"This fellow cannot be tied up. His changes of pace, lightning cuts and general speed and toughness combine to make him one of the greatest running threats of the current era."

**— Stanley Woodward
writing about Reynolds**

stand for more than 30 years. Mike Rozier finally broke it in 1982, gaining 1,689 yards on 49 more carries than Reynolds had. Reynolds still ranks No. 5 on Nebraska's single-season rushing list. The blond-headed Reynolds was a big-man on game.

Then came his junior year. He would score only 43 points in the next two seasons, mostly on conversion kicks. He played in only 10 games because of injury problems, which included two shoulder separations.

In the spring after his senior football season, Reynolds suffered a broken leg in a Cornhusker baseball game at Kansas State that prevented him from going to training camp with the NFL's Los Angeles Rams, who drafted him despite the disappointing junior and senior seasons, and delayed an attempt to play professional baseball.

After a brief trial with the Lincoln Chiefs independent minor league baseball team in 1955, Reynolds turned his unique athletic talents to golf. He became a successful insurance executive in Lincoln until his untimely death from a heart attack in August of 1985, less than a year after he was inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame.

The Cornhuskers' No. 12 was only 53 years old. The headline on a tribute in the *Lincoln Journal* said: "So Long Mr. Touchdown." ■



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Qualified Quarterbacks

The defending national champions are on the lists of the nation's top prep quarterbacks

By JAMES HALE

It's the best of times for the Nebraska Cornhuskers. The Huskers started the season as defending national champions, ranked in the top five in most polls. They also happen to be the hottest team in the recruiting circles.

If early indications mean anything, the Cornhuskers are in good position to continue their pursuit of the elite players in college football.

The best player in the country just might be Aldine (Texas) MacArthur quarterback **Odell James** (6-foot-4, 205 pounds, 4.5). He possesses a unique combination of size, speed, running ability and a golden arm.

Heading into his senior season James has thrown for 1,943 yards and 19 touchdowns and rushed for 2,646 yards and 41 touchdowns.

However, stats alone don't impress scouts about James. He proved he was a winner during his sophomore year, when he led the Generals to the Class 5A Division II title game. James had them headed toward the title game again last season before an eligibility question of another player knocked them out of the playoffs.

"He's a super athlete and super kid who is gifted enough to play quarterback at BYU, Florida State or Nebraska," said MacArthur head coach Bob Alpert. "He's a very versatile athlete who could be the top option quarterback in the country, but throws the ball so well that he's too good to play in just an option offense. You're talking about a Charlie Ward-type of player, only much bigger and just as fast. Odell is one of the best kids I have ever coached; very tough and physical

and we are going to run a lot of shotgun this year to take advantage of his total abilities."

Not only is James good, but he's also tailor made for the Husker offense. He's the best option quarterback in the country, and many scouts say he has the best arm in the country. Sounds just right for the Huskers. But just like everyone else, Nebraska will have to wait until after his senior season is over to talk to James.

"We care what happens to Odell this season and even though we want the best for his future, we aren't yet concerned about next year," Alpert said. "We want Odell to enjoy his senior year and then concentrate on recruiting. He's pretty smart about the process, knowing the depth chart of the schools he's interested in. So, he won't be too far behind when he actually sits down to concentrate on it."

Nebraska might have the inside track when it comes to landing James. He had a great time at the Nebraska football camp this summer and enjoyed his short chats with Husker head coach Tom Osborne enough to have the Huskers slightly out front. If he wants to stay close to home, Baylor and Texas have the best shot. However, he's also mentioned Syracuse, North Carolina, Illinois, Florida State, Miami and South Carolina.

Rashard Casey (6-3, 185, 4.55) of Hoboken, N.J., is another exceptional athlete who excels both in running and throwing the ball. Considered a Randall Cunningham-style player, Casey rushed for 810 yards and 16 touchdowns a year ago, while passing for another 893 and nine touchdowns. Casey is another player who needs to find an offense that can take advantage of his total abilities. This is where the Huskers come in. Nebraska's expanded passing offense enables them to lure athletes like Casey to Lincoln.

"I am not really looking for any particular style of offense, but one that is flexible enough to let me use on my abilities," Casey said.



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Odell James, considered the top high school player by several scouts, is strongly considering the Huskers.

Penn State is the early leader, with North Carolina, Michigan State and Nebraska in the chase.

Kenton Evans (6-4, 180, 4.6) of Memphis (Tenn.) Westwood is another player with great tools both on the ground and in the air. Last season Evans exploded in the air hitting on 231 of 415 passes for 3,828 yards and 38 touchdowns.

What's even more amazing is that Evans only threw 10 interceptions despite putting the ball in the air over 400 times. Tennessee, Texas, Florida State and Georgia are the schools that Evans has an interest in.

In Texas, **Clint Finley** (6-1, 195, 4.5) of Cuero is drawing attention as one of the top quarterbacks in the country. He's another quarterback with such great athletic ability some schools are recruiting him for the secondary as well.

Finley is looking at Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, Nebraska and Texas Tech.

Clois Taylor (6-3, 205, 4.65) of Dallas Spruce is ranked as one of the top five quarterbacks in the Lone Star State and admits he likes Illinois, Southern Methodist, Nebraska, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M.

Out West, **Jonathon Beasley** (6-1, 205, 4.6) of Glendale (Ariz.) Cactus attended the Nebraska, Colorado and Texas summer camps looking to improve on his junior season of 2,556 yards and 28 touchdowns.

Lakewood (Colo.) Bear Creek star **Sean Davis** (6-2, 210, 4.58) has already thrown for 7,504 yards and 54 career touchdowns. He worked at the Notre Dame and Colorado camps, and also has an interest in Washington, Texas, and Nebraska.

The Huskers also show great versatility at the quarterback position. Senior **Tommie Frazier**, the top option quarterback in the country is their starter; senior **Brook Berringer**, an excellent thrower, is his backup. Top prep quarterbacks tend to notice that type of thing.

The Huskers' quarterback list always seems to grow and change as the their recruiting effort takes off. And it's always the most fun to follow. ■



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The Next Wave

The following is an **UPDATED** list
of high school seniors who will
constitute the recruiting
Class of '96

Quarterbacks

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
Quincy Carter	6-2	190	Decatur (SW DeKalb), GA	UGA, TEX, PSU, NEB
Rashard Casey	6-3	190	Hoboken, NJ	PSU, OH ST, MI ST, NEB
Tim Couch	6-5	212	Hyden (Leslie Co.), KY	AUB, TEN, PSU, ND
Sean Davis	6-1	190	Lakewood (Bear Creek), CO	ND, COL, WSH, TEX, NU
Bret Engemann	6-4	220	Provo (Timpview), UT	WSH, UCLA, UTAH, MIA
Tim Hasselback	6-2	194	Westwood (Xaverian), MA	UCLA, STF, COL, MCH
Earl Haniford	6-3	210	Martinsville, IN	IND, ILL, OH ST, MCH, ND
Odell James	6-4	206	Aldine (MacArthur), TX	NU, FSU, TEX, UNC
Jason Kapsner	6-6	222	Cincinnati (Colerain), OH	WSC, COL, STF, KSU, TEX
Scott Kavanaugh	6-4	195	Naperville (North), IL	WSC, IA, ILL, OH ST, TEX
Tony Lindsay	6-2	180	Denver (Jefferson), CO	UCLA, ASU, UTAH, ARZ
Tee Martin	6-3	205	Mobile (Williamson) AL	AUB, NU, ALA, UGA, ND
Damian Rolls	6-2	200	Kansas City (Schlagle), PA	KU, KSU, MO, NU, SMU
Jay Stoner	6-2	202	Colorado Springs (Mitchell), CO	ORG, COL, WSH, KSU
T. T. Toliver	6-0	165	Daytona Beach (Mainland) FL	FSU, UNC, PIT, NU
Mike Usry	6-4	200	Tallahassee (N. Fla. Christian), FL	UGA, AUB, S. CAR

Running Backs

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
DeAngelo Evans	5-10	220	Wichita (Collegiate), KS	ND, NEB, KAN
Edgerrin James	6-2	205	Immokalee, FL	MIA, AUB, FSU, FLA, UGA, NEB
Chris Johnson	6-1	230	Chickasha, OK	NU, TEX, COL, PSU, MCH
Cedric Jones	6-1	230	Altus, OK	OU, OSU, TEX, ALA, FLA, NU
Vernon Maxwell	6-3	195	Midwest City, OK	TX A&M, TEN, OU
Willie Miller	6-0	225	Bellvue (West), NE	NU, PSU, CO ST, WYO, NW
Patrick Pass	6-0	207	Tucker, GA	UGA, ALA, NU, ND, FSU, FLA
Durrell Price	6-1	225	Sylmar, CA	NU, COL, USC, PSU, UCLA
William Snowden	5-11	200	Boulder, CO	MIA, BYU, ORG, COL, NU
Eric Stevenson	6-3	245	Crescent, OK	UCLA, ARK, OSU, NU, OU
Rashon Spikes	5-11	205	Meriden (Maloney), CT	NU, NC ST, SYR, PIT, PSU
Joe Thomas	6-3	200	Broken Bow, OK	OSU, PSU, MO
Parnell Walton	5-9	190	Omaha (Central), NE	NU, ND, IA, UCLA, ISU
Lydell Williams	5-10	180	Hannibal, MO	MO, IND, NU, KU, ILL
Steve Williams	6-4	260	Sapulpa, OK	OU, NU, MCH, OSU, ND
Tyson Wilson	6-0	208	Dallas (Kimball), TX	UGA, FSU, TX A&M

Tight Ends

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
Terrance Dupree	6-5	210	Seffner (Armwood), FL	FLA, UGA, S. CAR, FSU, ND
Rufus French	6-5	229	Amory, MS	AUB, FSU, ALA, LSU, OKL, ND
Matt Markway	6-4	230	St. Louis (Vianney), MO	BC, WSC, ND, IND, ILL
Dan O'Leary	6-5	225	Cleveland (St. Ignatius), OH	ND, BC, PSU, MCH
Gorman Thornton	6-4	245	Montgomery (Davis), AL	ALA, AUB, UGA, MS ST

Wide Receivers

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
David Allen	5-11	180	Liberty, MO	MO, NU, KSU, TX A&M, OU
Plexico Burress	6-6	210	Va. Beach (Green Run), VA	MCH, FLA, FSU, MIA, ND
LaCorey Collins	6-4	208	Oakland (Skyline), CA	TEX, WSH, UCLA, WSU, USC
Kenneth Davis	6-0	185	Houston (Washington), TX	MCH, MIA, NU, ARZ, OU
Damien Dotson	5-9	165	Memphis (Westwood), TN	LSU, FLA, NU, PIT
Stan Guyness	6-2	180	Los Alimitos, CA	USC, UCLA, COL, TEX
Kevin Harvey	5-11	180	Paulsboro, NJ	ND, PSU, MIA, UNC, MCH
Jermale Kelly	6-2	185	Greenville (Berea), SC	NU, ND, UGA, USC, FSU
Eric McCready	6-4	185	Englewood (Cherry Creek), Co	UCLA, ND, OU, NU
Phil Miller	6-5	213	Buffalo, MN	STF, WSC, MIN, MCH
Raki Nelson	6-1	180	Harrisburg (Bishop McDevitt), PA	PSU, PIT, SYR, MD
Titcus Petigrew	6-2	194	Clemons (West Forsyth), PA	PSU, TEN, UGA, FLA
Ron Strickland	6-0	190	Chattanooga (Tyner), TN	ALA, TEN, UGA, ND, ARK

Linebackers

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
Jasper Armstrong	6-2	225	Aurora (Eaglecrest), CO	COL, ND, MI ST, WSH
Carleton Bailey	6-1	245	Carrollton, GA	UGA, FSU, CLEM, AUB, TEN
DaVon Brame	6-4	185	Denver (Montbello), CO	KSU, ASU, TX A&M, COL
Kevin Brown	6-2	240	McAlester, OK	NU, FLA, FSU, ND, TEX, TULSA
Grady Brooks	6-2	225	Dallas (Lincoln), TX	MCH, TX A&M, MIA, FLA, ND
Mike Burden	6-2	210	Palatine, IL	MI ST, TeN, USC, WSC, MCH
Kyle Cabra	6-2	215	Boulder (Fairview), CO	ARZ, UCLA, NU, ORG
Chris Claiborne	6-3	225	Riverside (Norta), CA	USC, COL, ND, TEX, NU, WSC
Na'il Diggs	6-4	215	Los Angeles (Dorsey), CA	USC, UCLA, ISU
Robert Dirks	5-10	211	Wichita East	OU, TX A&M, KU, COL, KSU, MO
Jason Eberhart	6-4	230	St. Louis (Mehlville), MO	ILL, MO, BC, KSU, IA
Chris Edwards	6-5	212	Sandersville (Washington Co.), GA	GA TECH, UGA
Robert Franklin	6-2	230	St. Louis (Mehlville), MO	ILL, NU, KSU, ARZ
Cassen Groves	6-2	204	St. Louis (Vashon), MO	ILL, NU, TEX
Dariss Lomax	6-3	215	Kansas City (Washington), KS	KU, NU, ND, MIA, BC
Lucas Mallory	6-2	240	Boulder, CO	COL, STF, NW, IA ST, CO ST
Daryl Owens	6-0	215	Jackson (Provine), MS	COL, USC, WSH, TEX
Jermain Pharms	6-1	205	Orange Park, FL	FLA, PSU, MIA
Brandon Spoon	6-3	225	Burlington (Williams), NC	ND, MCH, UNC, UGA
Michael Young	6-3	235	St. Louis (Hazelwood), MO	IA, ISU, ILL FSU, WSH
Nate Webster	6-0	218	Miami (Northwestern), FL	MIA, PIT, NU, OH ST

Offensive Linemen

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
Jeff Backus	6-6	260	Norcross, GA	MCH, UGA, FLA, TEX, NC ST, UCLA
Cedric Bell	6-3	300	Bradenton (Southeast), FL	S. CAR, NU, FLA, FSU
Billy Brann	6-4	280	Blue Springs, MO	PSU, KSU, ND, COL, NU
Marcus Clavelle	6-7	345	New Iberia, LA	TEN, NU, ND, ARK, TX A&M
Ryan Cummings	6-5	245	Kansas City (Rockhurst), MO	NU, KSU, BC, MO, ISU
Robert Franklin	6-2	230	St. Louis (Mehlville), MO	ILL, NU, KSU, ARZ
Adam Hotz	6-3	270	Papillion (LaVista), NE	NU, IA, FLA, ISU, NW
Jefferson Kelley	6-6	305	Cincinnati (Colerain), OH	MCH, OH ST, NU, PSU
Richard Land	6-8	290	Brentwood (Academy), TN	Open
Marques McFadden	6-5	265	Boise (Capital), ID	STF, ARZ, WSH, ASU, UCLA
Matt Shockley	6-4	275	Oologah, OK	OU, OSU, TULSA, ARK
Chad Thacker	6-6	275	Long Mont (Centaurus), CO	ALA, KU, MO, ISU
Chris Valletta	6-4	290	Plano, TX	NU, FSU, ARK, OU, TX A&M
Zac Zedalis	6-3	280	Alachua (Santa Fe), FL	FLA, FSU, AUB, NU, BC

Defensive Linemen

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
Ryan Allen	6-4	252	Enid, OK	NU, KSU, ARK, COL, STF
Thaddeus Bullard	6-5	247	Live Oak (Suwanee), FL	FLA, ND, NU, S. CAR, UGA
Cornelius Burton	6-6	240	Houston (Lamar), TX	FSU, TEX, OU, S. CAR, HOU
Dershon Cook	6-3	278	Stillwater, OK	OSU, OU, NU, USC, BAY, KU
Shawn Ellis	6-5	235	Anderson (Westside), SC	Open
George Guidry	6-3	230	Lake Charles (Washington-Marion), LA	TX A&M, NU
Eric Jefferson	6-4	250	Shreveport (Evangel Christian), LA	FSU, PSU, NU
DeAndre Harris	6-3	295	Davenport (Assumption), IA	IA, NU, OU, ILL, MCH
Gerald Harris	6-4	240	East Point (Tri-Cities), GA	FSU, MS ST, VAN
Damione Lewis	6-4	250	Sulphur Springs, TX	MCH, MIA, FLA, FSU, NU, SYR
Marcus Sanders	6-4	245	Mesquite, TX	ARK, HOU, FSU, FLA, NU
Steve Warren	6-2	275	Springfield (Kickapoo), MO	NU, PSU, AUB, MO, ALA
Brad Williams	6-5	255	Santa Ana (Mater Dei), CA	NU, USC, TX A&M
Steve Williams	6-4	260	Sapulpa, OK	OU, NU, MCH, OSU, ND
Cedric Woodard	6-4	265	Sweny, TX	TX A&M, ND, MCH, UCLA
Stephen Young	6-2	270	Jefferson, TX	TX A&M, NU, ND, ARK, TEX

Punters/Place Kickers

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
Dan Boyd	5-10	195	Bradenton (Southeast), FL	MIA, MCH, WSC, CLEM
Shayne Graham	6-0	170	Dublin (Pulaski Co.), VA	PSU, FSU, UVA, BC
Tim Long	6-1	195	Altoona, PA	PSU, TEN, MCH
Kris Stockton	5-9	160	Katy (Taylor), TX	RICE, TX A&M, IA, UVA, ARK
Dan Stults	6-1	185	Orville, OH	OH ST

Defensive Backs

Player Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School	College Interests
Clayton Allen	5-10	180	Kansas City (Hickman), MO	FSU MIA, VAN, NU, MCH
Champ Bailey	6-1	171	Folkston (Charlton Co.), GA	UGA, FSU, CLEM, AUB
Adrian Beard	5-9	170	St. Louis (West), MO	TEX, STF, KU, NEB, ILL
Jevon Bell	6-0	180	Pinole Valley, CA	WSH, NU, TEX, CAL, WSU
Gary Berry	6-0	205	Columbus (DeSales), OH	OH ST, PSU, MCH, ALA, NU
Dominic Brown	5-10	165	Boutte (Hahnville), LA	LSU, FSU, MCH, ARZ, ARK
Ralph Brown	5-11	170	LaPuente (Bishop Amat), CA	ND, MCH, NU, UCLA
Ramone Cowert	5-11	205	Miami (Pace), FL	MIA, NU, KSU, PIT, PSU
Joe Dawkins	5-11	170	Hackensack, NJ	NU, UVA, TEN, PSU, UNC
Brandon Daniels	6-0	215	Ada, OK	NU, OU, OSU, COL, TEX
Elan Edwards	6-0	175	Boulder, CO	USC, UCLA, NU, ARZ
J.R. Edwards	6-2	180	Lincoln (Southeast), NE	NU, KSU, MO, UCLA
John Gibson	6-1	175	Omaha (Papillion-La Vista), NE	NU, PIT, IA, WSH, ND
Dwayne Goodrich	6-0	175	Oak Lawn (Richards), IL	MCH, ND, MI ST, COL, ARZ
Gerald Griffin	6-2	175	Murfreesboro (Riverdale), TN	TEN, ND, ALA, FSU, ILL
Tommy Hendricks	6-2	200	Aldine (Eisenhower), TX	ND, MCH, TEX, COL, UCLA
Shawn McCorkle	6-0	175	Dothan (Northview), AL	ALA, AUB, FSU, ND, TEN
Shad Morelock	6-1	175	Denver (Adams), CO	CO ST, MIA, ND, KU, UCLA
Robert Pollard	6-2	205	Orange Park, FL	FLA, FSU, MIA
Sy Price	6-0	165	Eunice, LA	Open
Rodney Rideau	6-0	175	Midwest City, OK	OU, OSU, MO, TEN
Robari Smith	6-6	230	Flint (Northern), MI	PSU, MCH, OH ST, FSU
Gari White	6-1	180	Riviera Beach (Suncoast), FL	OU, MI ST, TEN
Mike Woods	5-11	170	Del City, OK	IA, ISU, ILL, FSU, WSH

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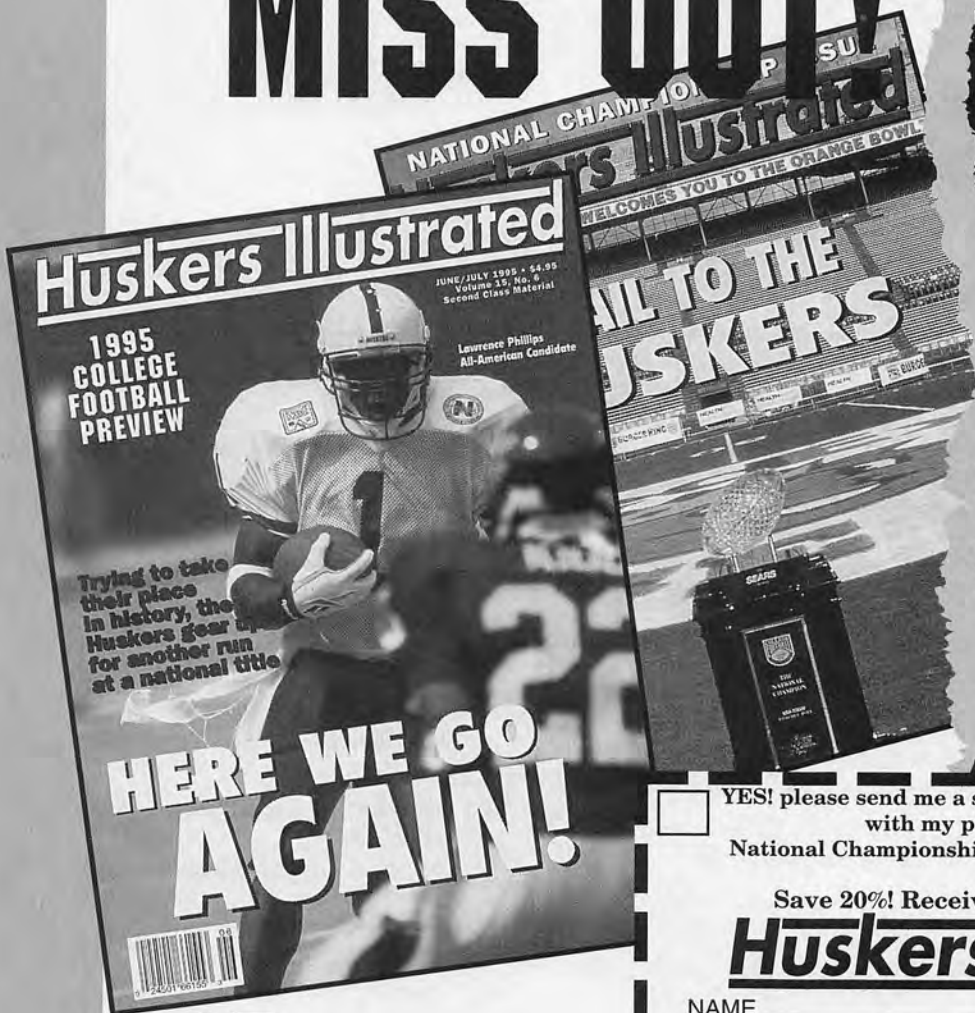
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NCAA Clouds Pregame Picture

*Eligibility distractions will take their toll
if not resolved quickly*

By MIKE BABCOCK

Lawrence Phillips wasn't declared eligible for Nebraska's season opener against Oklahoma State until two days before the game was played, which might come as something of a surprise, even to those who were paying close attention. Lincoln and Omaha newspapers reported that the NCAA had restored the Cornhusker I-back's eligibility, even though he hadn't been declared ineligible as far as anyone knew.

Nebraska certainly hadn't declared him ineligible, which is where such a procedure normally occurs. Nevertheless, the NCAA cleared Phillips to play, while it continued to look into his relationship with the owners of the group home in the Los Angeles area where he lived while attending junior high and high school.

Given his first two carries against Oklahoma State, Phillips might have seemed distracted by the situation. He lost a yard on the first play from scrimmage, and he lost a fumble on his second carry, which means he was ineffective for a little over two and a half minutes of the game. The rest of the time, and it wasn't all that much for him or the other first-unit Cornhuskers, Phillips ran like the Heisman Trophy candidate he is.

He rushed for 153 yards and three touchdowns in Nebraska's 64-21 victory at Lewis Stadium. "I was out of the game by the time it got outrageous," he said.

Depending on how "outrageous" is defined, that was sometime during the second quarter, when the Cornhuskers scored 30 points. So Phillips played a little during the post-outrageous part of the game.

But he had rushed for 125 of those yards and all of the touchdowns before halftime. And he only carried three times after the intermission, watching most of the second half from the sideline, without pads.

At 220 pounds, Phillips is heavier than a year ago. And he's stronger, without losing so much as a step of speed. That probably helps to explain his averaging nearly 13 yards per carry against the Cowboys.



Lawrence Phillips and Nebraska would like to put the NCAA speculation behind them.

The 100-yard rushing performance was the 13th of his career and moved him past Jeff Kinney on Nebraska's career rushing list. Phillips has 2,383 rushing yards. Kinney, a key figure in the offense of the Cornhuskers' national championship teams in 1970 and 1971, finished with 2,244 rushing yards.

Phillips' fumble turned out to be nothing more than a brief reprieve for a young Oklahoma State defense. The next time Nebraska

got the ball, three plays and a punt later, Phillips got it. Just to make sure he knew he still had the coaches' confidence, "they gave me the ball three or four times," he said.

The NCAA's interest in Phillips was a result of his having had lunch with an associate of a sports agent, a minor infraction of NCAA rules rectified by his reimbursing the associate for the cost of the lunch. His relationship with the owners of the group home also came under NCAA scrutiny.

Phillips admitted he was concerned about the possibility of not being allowed to play in the Oklahoma State game. "Hopefully, everything is put to rest now," he said. ■

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